



# Homeland Security

## Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 30 August 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For information, click here:  
<http://www.dhs.gov>

### Top Stories

- According to CBC News, one of three Ontario, Canada men who are suspects in what the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) are alleging is a terrorist plot possibly against transit systems and government buildings in Canada, has been remanded into custody until September 1 after appearing in an Ottawa courtroom. (See item [21](#))
- The Richmond Times-Dispatch reports that a massive computer failure is crippling Virginia government, knocking out Web sites to the governor's office and 26 state agencies, blocking the issuance of driver's licenses, preventing the processing of jobless benefits, and delaying welfare payments. (See item [42](#))

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### Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 27, 2theadvocate.com* – (Louisiana) **Crews ready to kill well.** Contractors attached a new blowout preventer to an Assumption Parish, Louisiana oil and gas well and pumped in enough water August 26 to counteract pressure if the troubled well blows again, parish and oil company officials said. The 7,200-foot-deep Mantle Oil and

Gas LLC well blew out August 11 and spewed oil, natural gas, brine, sand and other materials uncontrolled for nearly two weeks until it stopped on its own August 24, probably clogged with sand. The old blowout preventer fell off a short time after the well went wild and fell to the side of the wellhead northwest of Paincourtville, according to Louisiana State Police reports. The blowout site, which was located in a large agricultural area west of Bayou Lafourche and north of La. 70, forced closures of La. 70 and La. 1003, and the evacuations of six homes, one business, and a race track. Source: <http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/latest/101620048.html>

2. *August 27, Detroit Free Press* – (Michigan) **Enbridge pipeline that ruptured was corroding in several places, federal official says.** The section of pipeline that ruptured July 26 and caused one of the largest crude oil spills in history in the midwestern U.S. was corroding in many places, according to the head of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). There was also “low adhesion” of a plastic covering that wraps around the 30-inch Enbridge Inc. pipeline, a 50-foot section of which was recently removed and now sits in two sections in an NTSB lab in Ashburn, Virginia, the NTSB director said. The announcements were the preliminary findings in the NTSB’s ongoing investigation into the cause of the spill, which federal officials estimate sent more than 1 million gallons of oil into the Kalamazoo River.

Source:

[http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2010/08/enbridge\\_pipeline\\_that\\_rupture.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2010/08/enbridge_pipeline_that_rupture.html)

3. *August 26, Associated Press* – (West Virginia) **MSHA: New evidence found in W.Va. mine explosion.** A federal official said a hand-held meter found deep inside the Upper Big Branch mine in Montcoal, West Virginia detected explosive levels of methane before a blast killed 29 miners. The meter is the first piece of equipment showing explosive levels of methane in the mine at the time of the April 5 blast. The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) said the device detected 5 percent methane in the mine’s atmosphere that day. Methane only explodes when it makes up 5 percent to 15 percent of the atmosphere. Richmond, Virginia.-based Massey Energy Co. the mine’s owner, has said that high methane levels just prior to the explosion overwhelmed safeguards. A preliminary report issued by MSHA in April blamed methane and coal dust for the explosion.

Source: [http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jOv\\_3ePf3-cceiSHbRWtJqMPCV\\_gD9HR9QJO0](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jOv_3ePf3-cceiSHbRWtJqMPCV_gD9HR9QJO0)

For another story, see item [32](#)

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *August 26, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Nearly \$1.5 million fine over Pasadena chem plant.** Air Products LLC, which operates a chemical-manufacturing facility in the Houston, Texas area, has agreed to pay nearly \$1.5 million in civil penalties over 2006

hazardous waste violations. The Justice Department, the Environmental Protection Agency and Texas August 26 announced the proposed settlement. The proposal is subject to a 30-day public comment period and approval by a federal court in Houston. Authorities said the settlement would resolve violations in wrongly transferring spent acid to the nearby Agrifos Fertilizer Inc. manufacturing plant. Air Products has agreed to continue to manage the spent acid on-site and not ship it to Agrifos, or any other facility not authorized to accept it.

Source: <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/APStories/stories/D9HR84T81.html>

5. *August 26, WALB 10 Albany* – (Georgia) **Pecan insecticide spilled on Dougherty County street.** Haz-mat units responded to an insecticide spill on a busy Dougherty County, Georgia, street. About 11 a.m. August 26, a tire came off a rim on a pecan sprayer as it was being towed by a tractor on Radium Spring Road in Albany. The equipment belongs to Cross Creek Pecan company in Mitchell County. While farm workers were changing the tire, they saw insecticide leaking out of the sprayer. Some went down a storm drain. Albany Fire Department haz-mat crews blocked off the drain with sand bags and put sand on the road to absorb the spilled insecticide. They said it was highly diluted and not dangerous. Albany Fire Department's battalion chief said, "It's sprayed in the air. They actually take it and spray the pecan trees. You'll see them going down the road spraying. So it's not recommended to drink, so it is a hazardous material. But it's a practically non-toxic hazardous material." Firefighters estimate only about 1 gallon of the chemical spilled. The state environmental protection division will check the storm drains to make they are clean, and that little insecticide reaches a holding pond to which the drain leads.

Source: <http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=13051018>

6. *August 26, WMAR 2 Baltimore* – (Maryland) **Lanes reopened after Hazmat crash closes eastbound I-70 prior to I-695.** Eastbound lanes of I-70 prior to I-695 in Baltimore, Maryland, have been reopened after a four-car crash involving a truck carrying hazardous chemicals closed them about 5 p.m. August 26. Baltimore County Fire officials said four vehicles, including one carrying dry chlorine and sulfuric acid, collided. Several people were injured, and at least one person was taken to Shock Trauma. Fire crews worked to clean up the chemicals and reopened the highway around 7:30 p.m.

Source: [http://www.abc2news.com/dpp/news/region/baltimore\\_county/hazmat-crash-closes-eastbound-i-70-prior-to-i-695](http://www.abc2news.com/dpp/news/region/baltimore_county/hazmat-crash-closes-eastbound-i-70-prior-to-i-695)

7. *August 26, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Firefighters find cause of blaze at Clorox plant.** Authorities said a blaze at a Clorox plant in Forest Park, Georgia, that temporarily shut down highways August 26 because of billowing smoke, started when pine oil ignited on a loading dock. The ignition caused an explosion and two fires reported around 9 a.m. The Forest Park deputy fire chief said one of the fires burned in a storage shed and the other in a coolant station. Three employees were treated for minor injuries. Authorities closed I-285 at Riverdale Road and I-75 at Cleveland Avenue, diverting traffic to side streets. The highways reopened about 10:25 a.m. after

the fires were extinguished.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9HRCUN80.htm>

For another story, see item [22](#)

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector**

8. *August 26, Red Wing Republican Eagle* – (Minnesota) **NRC delays decision on safety violation at Prairie Island plant.** Regulators with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) are still trying to determine whether the potential for internal flooding at the Prairie Island nuclear plant in Red Wing, Minnesota was a violation of federal licensing requirements. In a letter submitted to Xcel Energy August 23, the NRC announced that it is withdrawing a preliminary violation issued against the facility in order to further review Xcel's claim that the agency reviewed the plant on standards that do not apply to facilities built before 1975. "We have been going through their licensing documents to determine whether we agree with their assessment or not," said the NRC spokeswoman. Both sides agree the potential for a pipe breakage in the plant's turbine building posed a risk to public safety. Xcel, which owns and operates the plant, has since corrected the problem.

Source: <http://www.republican-eagle.com/event/article/id/68585/>

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## **Critical Manufacturing Sector**

9. *August 27, Financial Times* – (National) **Boeing delays Dreamliner delivery date.** Boeing announced its long overdue 787 Dreamliner passenger jet would be delayed by several more weeks because of a problem in getting an engine from the U.K. manufacturer. The first 787, which is already more than two years late, was supposed to be delivered to its launch customer, All Nippon Airways of Japan, by the end of this year. After a series of production problems, Boeing said some weeks ago that this deadline could slip to early 2011. On August 27, Boeing said it would not make the first delivery until the middle of the first quarter of 2011. It said the delay "follows an assessment of the availability of an engine needed for the final phases of flight test this fall." The news follows reports that an engine being made by Rolls-Royce, whose Trent 1000 engines are powering the 787, suffered a test failure at the manufacturer's Derby headquarters in the first week of August.

Source:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/BUSINESS/08/27/boeing.dreamliner.ft/?hpt=T2#fbid=-NzqP-Vdfye&wom=false>

10. *August 26, United States Environmental Protection Agency* – (New York) **EPA Orders removal of PCB-contaminated materials from Massena, N.Y. site and decontamination of buildings before demolition.** The U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) today ordered Motors Liquidation Company (MLC), formerly the General Motors Corporation (GM), to remove materials and soil contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from portions of the General Motors Central Foundry Division Superfund site in Massena, New York. MLC intends to demolish several buildings at the site, a former General Motors plant. Under the order, MLC will be responsible for additional sampling, decontamination of the building and its contents, demolition of the building, removal of PCB-contaminated soil beneath the building and restoration of the area. EPA's oversight of the work will ensure any PCB-contaminated material and soil handled as part of demolition and excavation operations at the site comply with all federal and state laws and regulations. PCBs have been found in the plant's equipment, piping and concrete flooring, and in tunnels and soil located underneath the buildings. The PCBs could pose a threat of further release in the event of improper demolition and excavation activities.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/422867e2a841fd378525778b004b4a6d!OpenDocument>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

11. *August 27, Gainesville Sun* – (Florida) **Luis Orlando Martinezroque accused of using information gathered by credit card skimmers.** A man accused of illegally using information gathered by credit card skimmers at Gainesville, Florida gas stations has been booked into the Alachua County jail. The 24-year-old suspect, of Orlando, was arrested August 24 in Orange County on charges of identity theft and scheming to defraud. Gainesville Police requested that the suspect be extradited to Gainesville. He is under investigation by police, the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, and the U.S. Secret Service in connection with skimmers found earlier this summer. Investigators said about 30 people have reported finding fraudulent charges on their credit cards after buying gas at area stores where skimmers were found. The skimmers were small electronic devices placed inside pumps to gather credit card information surreptitiously from unsuspecting consumers. Information "skimmed" from the card when it is swiped at the pump can then be used or sold. A week ago, industry officials and local investigators said the skimmers might have been the work of international crime rings. The suspect was identified by surveillance videos, and a witness.

Source: <http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100827/ARTICLES/100829548/1002>

12. *August 27, KNXV 15 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **'Bad Tooth Bandit' strikes again.** Police are investigating a bank robbery in Phoenix, Arizona that they said may be the work of

the "Bad Tooth Bandit" who is wanted in connection with several other heists. According to a Phoenix Police Department spokesman, a Wells Fargo bank located inside the Albertson's store near Tatum and Shea boulevards was robbed around 5 p.m. August 26. It is unclear if the suspect was armed during the incident. The spokesman said officers searched the surrounding area for the suspect, but were unable to locate him. Police are reportedly investigating if the man is the "Bad Tooth Bandit," who is responsible for other robberies around the valley.

Source: [http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region\\_phoenix\\_metro/north\\_phoenix/'bad-tooth-bandit'-strikes-again-police-investigating-bank-robbery-in-phoenix](http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region_phoenix_metro/north_phoenix/'bad-tooth-bandit'-strikes-again-police-investigating-bank-robbery-in-phoenix)

13. *August 26, New York Times* – (International) **Young girl among those hurt by acid in letters.** An 8-year-old girl was among those injured by letters containing acid that were sent to the families of Geneva, Switzerland bank executives in recent days, the magistrate investigating the case said August 26. The girl was taken by ambulance to a hospital after she opened a box inside one of the letters and her hands were burned by concentrated sulfuric acid, the magistrate said by telephone from Geneva. Two adults were also injured, but apparently less seriously, by the letters, which targeted Geneva private bankers and their families, he said. The magistrate said that a total of eight letters containing acid were mailed to eight different addresses, in several cases the wives of executives at Geneva private banks. The letters were mailed from within Switzerland, but were routed through a central post office so it was not possible to say from where. The letters were sent August 22, the Swiss newspaper Tribune de Geneve reported. The motivation for sending the letters is not yet clear.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/26/world/europe/26iht-swiss.html?partner=rss&emc=rss>

14. *August 26, KXTV 10 Sacramento* – (California) **Bomb squad inspects two potential explosives at Wells Fargo bank in Tracy.** An evacuation at a strip mall in Tracy, California was lifted after the San Joaquin County bomb squad determined two possible explosive devices inside a car were smoke bombs, police said. The incident began about 10:40 a.m. August 26 when officials at the Wells Fargo bank on Valpico Road and Tracy Boulevard reported a man tried to deposit a fake check at the branch, said a Tracy police lieutenant. He said officers determined the check was fraudulent and arrested the 26-year-old suspect, of Lathrop. A search of the suspect's car turned up two loaded guns in the vehicle as well as black clothing, ski masks, and two devices that looked like explosives in his trunk. The suspect said the cylinders were bombs. Officers evacuated the bank as well as a Subway, a Supercuts and a yogurt shop in the area. The bomb squad determined the devices were the type used to place in a gas pipe to check for leaks. The suspect was arrested on weapons and bad check charges.

Source: <http://www.news10.net/news/story.aspx?storyid=92670&catid=2>

15. *August 26, Poughkeepsie Journal* – (New York) **Central Hudson warns of scam seeking credit card data.** Customers of Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp. are being warned about a scam discovered recently. People posing as Central Hudson employees are seeking credit card information over the telephone and via text messages, said a spokesman for the utility company. "Several calls were made to



residents indicating a balance due on their Central Hudson account, or offering a discount on future utility bills for a one-time payment,” he said. ”Several residents also received text messages on their cell phones advising them to reply with a ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ to obtain a discount on their utility bills.” These are neither authorized nor conducted by Central Hudson, and customers receiving these calls or messages are warned not to provide their utility account or credit card information. The spokesman said customers who get these inquiries should note the caller ID information and report the incident to police.

Source:

<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/article/20100826/BUSINESS/100826011/Central-Hudson-warns-of-scam-seeking-credit-card-data>

16. *August 25, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Prosecutors: Mortgage worker got drunk, shot computer server.** A Salt Lake City, Utah mortgage company employee allegedly got drunk, opened fired on his firm’s computer server with a .45-caliber automatic, and then told police someone had stolen his gun and caused the damage. The 23-year-old suspect has been charged in 3rd District Court with criminal mischief, a second-degree felony; carrying a dangerous weapon while under the influence and providing false information to police, both Class B misdemeanors; and public intoxication, a Class C misdemeanor. Salt Lake County prosecutors said the suspect called police August 12, claiming a man had stolen his gun and fired into the \$100,000 computer server owned by RANLife Home Loans, located at 268 W. 400 South. However, investigators allege the suspect was drinking that night at a concert with a co-worker and had returned to his office afterward and shot the server. A probable cause statement alleges the suspect told police he had been “mugged, assaulted with his own firearm and drugged” by a mystery assailant. However, acquaintances of the suspect reportedly told police he had earlier been drunk, was armed and had threatened to shoot the computer and maybe himself.

Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/50159264-76/campbell-computer-police-server.html.csp>

17. *August 25, Pasadena Star-News* – (California) **'Drywaller bandit' suspected of robbing two Pasadena banks.** Authorities have linked two recent Pasadena, California bank heists to a robber the FBI is calling "The Drywaller Bandit." The gun-wielding crook is believed to have held up a Wells Fargo branch August 24 as well as a Citibank branch August 13, a Pasadena police lieutenant said. The banks are within 1 mile of each. Because of the white dust mask worn during both crimes, "We're calling him 'The Drywaller Bandit,' " said an FBI spokeswoman. In both cases, police said, the robber was described as a white man in his 30s, of medium to heavy build, wearing a dust mask and a baseball cap and armed with a handgun. The robber stuffed the stolen money into cloth bags in both robberies, officials said.

Source: [http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci\\_15897465#ixzz0xj6IhgCh](http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_15897465#ixzz0xj6IhgCh)

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## **Transportation Sector**

18. *August 27, Aviation Week* – (National) **American will appeal maintenance fine.** Calling a record-breaking, \$24.2-million fine proposed August 27 by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) “unwarranted,” American Airlines plans to appeal a proposed civil penalty for alleged maintenance lapses on its MD-80 fleet from 2008. The amount of the fine, which is the 19th FAA has issued this month, is unprecedented. American will have 30 days to respond to the 58-page letter FAA sent detailing the violations, with evidence it feels supports its case. Airlines and other companies typically pay a fraction of proposed fines. American already paid for the incident in terms of revenue. More than 2,400 flights were canceled in early April 2008 as it inspected and reinspected nearly 300 MD-80s, which required inspecting wire bundles by the auxiliary hydraulic pump for chafing or arcing, and correcting any problems found. American ultimately completed the work, FAA noted, but the agency later determined that 286 of the MD-80s flew on 14,278 passenger flights while noncompliant. FAA could have fined American up to \$25,000 for each of the 14,000 individual violations, a total potential fine that could have come to more than \$350 million. American continues to insist the issues did not impact the fleet’s airworthiness. “We assure our customers there was never a safety of flight issue surrounding these circumstances more than two years ago,” said an American Airlines spokesman.  
Source:  
[http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story\\_channel.jsp?channel=comm&id=news/awx/2010/08/26/awx\\_08\\_26\\_2010\\_p0-250737.xml](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=comm&id=news/awx/2010/08/26/awx_08_26_2010_p0-250737.xml)
19. *August 27, Lower Hudson Journal News* – (New Jersey) **Suspicious package at Irvington destroyed.** Authorities have blown up a suspicious package left on the train tracks in Irvington, New Jersey. Train service along the Hudson Line was suspended at 8:45 a.m. because of the package. A Metro-North spokesman said Irvington police asked for a halt in service while they checked out the item. The package has also prompted evacuation of some businesses in downtown Irvington.  
Source: <http://www.lohud.com/article/20100827/NEWS02/100827005/-1/newsfront/Hudson-Line-service-suspended--suspicious-package-at-Irvington--businesses-evacuated>
20. *August 27, Associated Press* – (California) **Tires of plane catch fire during landing in Calif.** The tires of a JetBlue Airways plane caught fire August 26 during a hard landing in Sacramento, California, that left 15 people with minor injuries, and sent passengers down emergency slides to escape the aircraft. The plane appeared to experience trouble with its brakes, and four tires blew out during the landing, an airline spokeswoman said. The Airbus A320's 87 passengers were taken to the terminal on buses, an airport spokeswoman said. The nature of the injuries weren't immediately available, but five people were taken to a hospital, she said. A crew of five was aboard the plane that had the hard landing as it arrived at 12:50 p.m. from Long Beach. The incident forced the airport to close one of its two runways, but the airport remained open.  
Source:  
<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jgyu1OZ8f2qSJsQKXBXaOeACzwzAD9HRGBJ01>



21. *August 27, CBC News* – (International) **Bomb plot suspect appears in court.** One of three Ontario, Canada men who are suspects in what the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) are alleging is a terrorist plot against Canada has been remanded into custody until September 1 after appearing in an Ottawa courtroom. An RCMP chief described all three men during a August 26 press conference as being part of a conspiracy to commit "a violent terrorism attack." The men discussed specific targets in Canada, according to security sources CBC spoke with, including specific government buildings and transit systems, but didn't mention any of those targets by name. A former senior Canadian Security Intelligence Service officer told CBC News his sources had said Parliament Hill was among the targets discussed, and suggested Montreal's transit system was a possible target because two of the men had roots in the city, and had lived and studied there.  
Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/windsor/story/2010/08/27/canada-bomb-plot-charges.html#ixzz0xohjzLF1>
22. *August 26, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* – (New York) **Rochester airport explosion: Hydrogen tanks ignite.** Two hydrogen tanks near a Rochester, New York airport exploded and caught fire August 26, sending black smoke high in the air. A male employee of Praxair drove an 18-wheel truck carrying a compressed-hydrogen tank to the station to replace another truck and tank. One of the hydrogen tanks exploded and caught fire. Officials believe that there was some sort of arcing on the ground that spread the flames to the other tank, which also exploded. Concourse B, the easternmost part of the airport terminal, was evacuated for about 1 hour, as well as numerous businesses and county offices in the area. The Monroe County executive said during a news conference that people had returned to businesses in all but the immediate area of the explosion and fire. All air traffic was suspended for 50 minutes. An AirTran flight and an American Eagle flight that were approaching Rochester were diverted to the Buffalo Niagara International Airport. Passengers boarding three flights in Rochester were ordered off the planes and moved to the western part of the terminal. Other flights' departures also were delayed.  
Source: <http://www.democratandchronicle.com/article/20100826/NEWS01/100826013/1002/NEWS/Hydrogen-tank-explodes-near-airport--2-injured>
23. *August 25, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **2 Utah men to prison for copper wire theft in NV.** Two Utah men who stole 750 pounds of copper wire from a railroad signal system near West Wendover, Nevada have been sentenced to prison and ordered to pay nearly \$50,000 in restitution to the Union Pacific Railroad. Federal prosecutors in Reno said the theft in July 2008 disabled the railroad's safety-detection system, causing caused significant delays for freight and Amtrak passenger trains.  
Source: <http://www.nebraska.tv/Global/story.asp?S=13043603>

For another story, see item [6](#)

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## Postal and Shipping Sector

24. *August 27, DNAINFO.COM* – (New York) **Suspicious powder triggers evacuation of Ninth Avenue office building.** Hazardous-material teams evacuated 75 people from the midtown Manhattan offices of one of New York City's largest health insurers August 26, after a woman discovered suspicious white powder inside an envelope, witnesses and fire officials said. Employees on the third floor of 441 Ninth Ave., the offices of Emblem Health, were evacuated from the building after 11:30 a.m., when a mailroom staffer came into contact with the mysterious powder, fire officials said. Emblem Health is the umbrella company that oversees insurance plans including the Health Plan of New York (HIP) and Group Health Incorporated (GHI). A fire department spokesman confirmed haz-mat decontaminated one patient before transporting the person to Bellevue Hospital in good condition. The 75 people evacuated from the building did not come into contact with the substance, the spokesman said. The white powder was determined to be "harmless," according to an Emblem Health spokeswoman. Employees were cleared to re-enter the third floor after 1:30 p.m.  
Source: <http://www.dnainfo.com/20100826/midtown/suspicious-powder-scare-triggers-evacuation-of-ninth-avenue-office-building>
25. *August 26, Associated Press* – (National) **Colo. man pleads guilty in Obama anthrax hoax.** A man from the Denver, Colorado area has pleaded guilty to sending letters containing white powder to the U.S. President, members of Congress from Colorado and Alabama, and to Argentine consulates. The suspect pleaded guilty August 26 to 13 federal counts of mailing threatening communications. The suspect mailed a letter to the President that was intercepted September 10, 2009. The white powder in the letters was harmless. The 40-year-old suspect mailed letters criticizing federal health care reform legislation to members of Colorado's congressional delegation last year and this year. He sent letters to Alabama congressional members in January. He will be sentenced November 19, when he will face about two years to nearly five years in prison.  
Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ikYbmJYr3-hUb6pVh1suuYX-LMfAD9HRGLQ81>

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## Agriculture and Food Sector

26. *August 27, KRGV 5 Rio Grande Valley* – (International) **Grenade explodes at Mexican bar.** More than a dozen people were injured when a grenade exploded early August 27 in a bar in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Mexican authorities said five of the injured have been detained as part of the investigation. Four of them each lost a leg in the explosion. Police are investigating whether one of the victims was carrying the grenade when it went off. Jalisco state has seen a wave of drug violence after a drug kingpin was killed by soldiers earlier in August.

Source: [http://www.krgv.com/news/local/story/Grenade-Explodes-at-Mexican-Bar/\\_pszhGsQs0C6R1jLWxoirw.csp](http://www.krgv.com/news/local/story/Grenade-Explodes-at-Mexican-Bar/_pszhGsQs0C6R1jLWxoirw.csp)

27. *August 26, Washington Post* – (Iowa; National) **Salmonella strain blamed in outbreak is confirmed at 2 Iowa farms.** Laboratory tests have confirmed that two Iowa egg companies are contaminated with the same strain of salmonella blamed for a national outbreak of illness, which continues to claim victims and has sickened at least 1,500 people, federal officials said August 26. The confirmation backs up suspicions by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that tainted eggs from the two Iowa producers have caused the biggest case of Salmonella enteritidis disease that federal officials have seen since they began tracking the illness in the 1970s. The FDA, which has sent 20 investigators to the two farms — Wright County Egg and Hillandale Farms — said August 26 that it had detected the particular strain of salmonella in two barns at Wright County Egg, and in feed that the company made and gave to its own chickens. The agency also found that strain in feed that Wright supplied to Hillandale. "These are the very first results that we're beginning to get in, and there are many other results in the queue that may give us clues as to the the extent of contamination," the associate commissioner for food protection at the FDA said. He said the agency had taken 600 samples at the farms for laboratory analysis, and that additional results were expected. Officials from Wright County Egg said in a statement that the presence of salmonella on the property did not necessarily mean that the eggs were infected. But the company also pledged to work with the FDA.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/26/AR2010082604062.html>

28. *August 26, Douglas County News-Review* – (Oregon) **Salmonella source identified at Umpqua Dairy.** Salmonella that contaminated packages at Umpqua Dairy's milk processing plant in Roseburg, Oregon, was found in equipment that washes and sanitizes crates receiving packaged milk and juice, the company's president said August 25. He said he did not know how the salmonella got into the system, which state health and agriculture officials say has been cleaned and now meets safety standards. "All the employees were working around the clock to make sure we sanitized that part of the company," the president said at a press conference at the dairy. He said the company will continue to monitor the system. Officials have always thought the bacteria was on the packaging and not in the milk or juice, he said after the press conference. The Oregon Public Health Division attribute 23 cases of salmonellosis in nine counties to the bacteria at the dairy. Two people were hospitalized. The cases date back to October of last year. Health officials said that they only last week traced the illnesses to the dairy. The dairy shut down the Roseburg plant last week, and voluntarily recalled products packaged there. Packaging resumed at the plant August 25, and milk and juice processed there will be in stores August 26.

Source:

<http://www.nrtoday.com/article/20100826/NEWS/100829867/1063/NEWS&ParentProfile=1055>

29. *August 26, Food Poison Journal* – (California; National) **Missouri dairy's raw milk cheese production stopped due to Listeria and Staph.** Inspectors with the Missouri Department of Agriculture have halted production and distribution from Morningland Dairy located in Mountain View, California, after raw cheese from the dairy tested positive for *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. The cheese samples were seized June 30 in California; Missouri officials were made aware of the California department's test results today. Inspectors from the Missouri Department of Agriculture are coordinating with officials from the state department of health and senior services and the Food and Drug Administration to gather information concerning the distribution of the cheese from the dairy. The dairy sells several types of raw cows' milk and raw goats' milk cheeses across the United States.  
Source: <http://www.foodpoisonjournal.com/2010/08/articles/food-poisoning-watch/missouri-dairys-raw-milk-cheese-production-stopped-due-to-listeria-and-staph/>
30. *August 26, Reuters* – (Nebraska: International) **Pathogen blamed for Russia's bar on JBS beef plant.** Russia suspended beef imports from JBS Swift's Grand Island, Nebraska, beef plant because of a "pathogen issue," a company spokesman told Reuters August 26. The suspension, which becomes effective from September 8, was announced August 25 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA notice had, however, not given a reason for the import halt. Russia is still accepting beef from other U.S. plants. The JBS spokesman said the suspension was not related to U.S. beef exports to Russia nearing the 21,700-ton annual quota limit as some analysts had speculated. JBS-Swift is a unit of Brazilian meat giant JBS SA. The tariff on U.S. beef shipped beneath quota is 15 percent, but increases to 50 percent beyond the quota. Russia is expected to buy a record amount of U.S. beef this year largely because of tight supplies in traditional suppliers Australia and South America, industry sources said.  
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2623382820100827>

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## **Water Sector**

31. *August 27, Associated Press* – (California) **Sewage shoots from pipe, flooding garages, lagoon.** Residents of the Redwood Shores area of Redwood City, California are being warned not to even touch the water after a ruptured pipeline sent thousands of gallons of raw sewage oozing into a lagoon and pouring into the garages of several homes. The pipe ruptured at about 3 p.m. August 24, causing asphalt above to buckle and sewage to shoot out from underneath a street. The stinky mess flooded the garages of six homes, and some 5,000 gallons flowed into Redwood Shores lagoon, where locals go for swimming, boating and other recreation. A Redwood City spokesman said it is unclear how long it will take to finish repair work, which is occurring in front of the six homes — and preventing removal of the sludge. The cause of the rupture was not immediately clear.  
Source: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/ap/sewage-shoots-from-pipe-flooding-garages-lagoon-101637788.html>

32. *August 27, USA Today* – (National) **EPA to decide whether coal ash is hazardous waste.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the week of August 30 is set to begin a month of hearings on whether coal-ash waste should be effectively treated as hazardous waste subject to tighter safeguards. Environmental groups say it should. But industry groups said safety can be achieved without treating the waste as hazardous, which could make it less attractive to recyclers. The EPA has said it may make a decision by the end of next year. Environmental groups said widespread contamination to water supplies near coal-ash sites has already occurred. In a report August 26, environmentalists alleged that 39 coal-ash sites in 21 states have contaminated surface or groundwater, based on analysis of state records. At each site where groundwater was monitored, concentrations of heavy metals such as arsenic or lead exceeded federal health-based standards for drinking water, the report said. The 39 sites are in addition to 31 others named by the groups in February. The EPA has identified an additional 67 sites where water has been contaminated, the environmental groups said. Most of the sites are in big coal states, such as Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania. Environmentalists fear more contamination at other sites — which number about 900 nationwide, the EPA said — because many states do not require groundwater monitoring near coal-ash sites.  
Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2010-08-27-coalash27\\_ST\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2010-08-27-coalash27_ST_N.htm)
33. *August 26, KVAL 13 Eugene* – (Oregon) **Fire could threaten Eugene's drinking water.** New infrared mapping measures the Scott Mountain fire near McKenzie Bridge, Oregon at 2,559 acres, but fire officials said most of that acreage burned August 25, and that cooler, calmer weather has slowed the wildfire's spread. That is good news to firefighters, working to keep the fire out of a watershed that supplies some of Eugene's drinking water. The fire has bumped up against lava to the east. Firefighters are focusing on keeping the fire from spreading to the west into the Anderson Creek watershed and timber west of the wilderness, as well as a Boy Scout camp and other sites to the south. Earlier in the day August 26, the fire flooded Central Oregon with smoke. Most of that smoke has cleared out and the fire is no longer putting up a large column of smoke like it did on August 25. The fire has grown rapidly since it started 1 week ago, expanding from 300 to 900 to now almost 2,600 acres.  
Source: <http://www.kval.com/news/local/101608218.html>
34. *August 26, Bergen Record* – (New Jersey) **Major water main break sets off several smaller ones.** Seven additional water mains ruptured in and around Clifton and Passaic, New Jersey in the hours after a massive water main break August 23 that dumped 40 million gallons of water into a parking lot on Clifton's Broad Street, Passaic Valley Water Commission officials said. Water utility officials attributed the smaller breaks to water surges from the incident. A boil-water advisory remained in effect until August 26 for some residents. The water is being continually tested and, depending on results, the advisory could be lifted. The ruptures caused Clifton and surrounding areas to lose water or water pressure for the second day in a row. Officials from the water company said August 25 that they had isolated three of the eight breaks, and hope to have all the repairs completed by August 27. Meanwhile, the Clifton Fire Department

brought in a 2,500-gallon tanker from West Milford in case extra water is needed for emergencies. It is not uncommon for a large water main break to result in additional pipe breaks, an official said. The initial break occurred in a 51-inch main; the largest of the following breaks were 30-inch and 16-inch mains, which are considered moderately large. The big main break August 23 on Broad Street sent millions of gallons of water gushing, creating a sinkhole in the parking lot behind a hub of medical and legal offices. Much of the clean drinking water flowed into the Third River behind the parking lot, officials said.

Source:

[http://www.northjersey.com/news/101539428\\_7\\_smaller\\_ruptures\\_triggered\\_by\\_big\\_water\\_main\\_break.html](http://www.northjersey.com/news/101539428_7_smaller_ruptures_triggered_by_big_water_main_break.html)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

35. *August 27, Daily Iowan* – (Iowa) **First case of West Nile reported in Iowa.** The first confirmed case of the West Nile virus in Iowa this year occurred in Woodbury County, the Iowa Department of Public Health said. The adult male was not hospitalized and is now fully recovered. "If this year proves to be a typical year, we expect to see more cases of West Nile virus illness in Iowa," the department medical director said in a press release. The public health department recommends that Iowans use adequate insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Wearing covering clothing whenever possible outdoors, and eliminating the potential of mosquito-breeding grounds where standing water collects also reduces the risk. The medical director warned in the press release that Iowans should get used to taking these precautions, because mosquitoes do not die until the first frost.

Source: <http://www.dailyiowan.com/2010/08/27/Metro/18438.html>

36. *August 27, Milford Daily News* – (Massachusetts) **Two years worth of patient records were dumped.** The Milford Regional Medical Center pathology records dumped recently by a private contractor appear to cover a two-year period, a hospital inquiry has revealed, with roughly 20,000 patients seen during that span. The Milford, Massachusetts hospital is sending letters to the patients, whose cases were handled in 2008 or 2009 by an affiliate, Milford Pathology Associates. The records include information such as Social Security numbers and birth dates, but not bank account or credit card numbers. Milford Regional executives have stressed the importance of data security and patient confidentiality, and have expressed confidence in their own handling of records. The hospital recently posted an update on the case on its Web site.

Source: <http://www.milforddailynews.com/news/x1047403414/Two-years-worth-of-patient-records-were-dumped>

37. *August 27, Reuters* – (National) **J&J ortho unit recalls hip replacement systems.** Johnson & Johnson's DePuy Orthopaedics said it was recalling its ASR XL Acetabular System and ASR Hip Resurfacing System — both used in hip replacement surgery — due to the number of patients requiring a second hip replacement procedure,



or a revision. Some 93,000 people around the world have the ASR hip implant. A spokeswoman said management is evaluating how much of a financial impact, if any, the recall will have. The recall comes just days after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned DePuy to stop marketing its Corail Hip System for unapproved use and about a week after J&J's Vision Care recalled some 100,000 boxes of 1-Day Acuvue TruEye lenses overseas. Over the past year, J&J's reputation has been tarnished by recalls of Tylenol, Motrin and other nonprescription drugs brands. Previous recalls were related to manufacturing issues, but the recall of the hip replacement systems "seems to be more of a design issue," said a Noble Financial Group analyst. "Perhaps it points to an issue at the company that relates to the quality of design within orthopedics."

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE67Q2V220100827>

38. *August 26, Becker's Hospital Review* – (Indiana) **VA Medical Center and Indiana Health Information Exchange partner on electronic health data exchange pilot.** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced the VA Medical Center in Indianapolis will be partnering with the Indiana Health Information Exchange on an electronic health data exchange pilot, according to a Healthcare IT News report. The pilot, which is set to run through 2012, will securely exchange electronic health data through the Nationwide Health Information Network. Veterans who receive care from VA Medical Center and other healthcare providers in the Indianapolis area will be offered the opportunity to sign up for the pilot, which will allow their healthcare providers to share their health information through the secured exchange network. Healthcare providers can only share a patient's health information over an HIE after receiving his or her consent. Such a network will allow interoperability outside of VA or Department of Defense facilities and more effective communication between federal agencies and the private medical sector to serve veterans and their dependents, according to the report.

Source: <http://www.beckershospitalreview.com/healthcare-information-technology/va-medical-center-and-indiana-health-information-exchange-partner-on-electronic-health-data-exchange-pilot-5679.html>

39. *August 26, Palm Springs Desert Sun* – (California) **State whooping cough epidemic widening.** California health officials have confirmed 200 new cases of whooping cough in the past week, raising concerns of a widening epidemic as California's schoolchildren head back to class. Across the state, more than 3,300 cases and eight deaths have been reported to date. In Riverside County, 132 whooping cough cases have been reported as of August 26, said the director for disease control for the Riverside County Department of Public Health. There have been no deaths. Nine confirmed cases have been reported in eastern Riverside County, which includes the Coachella Valley. The majority of the cases are in western Riverside County. The epidemic should result in California breaking a 50-year record of cases set in 1958. Whooping cough is also known as pertussis.

Source:

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20100826/NEWS01/8260304/State+whooping+cough+epidemic+widening>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

40. *August 27, WRAL 5 Raleigh* – (North Carolina) **N.C. revenue department building evacuated again.** The North Carolina Department of Revenue building in downtown Raleigh was evacuated August 27 marking the second time it happened this week. State capitol police said a fire alarm was called in shortly after 6 a.m. The building was evacuated as a precaution. The Raleigh Fire Department responded but found no signs of any fire, police said. Police evacuated the revenue building August 25 after finding a suspicious package in the middle of Wilmington Street. The small package was covered in black electrical tape, but the bomb squad determined it was not an explosive device. Authorities were checking to see if surveillance video captured how it got there.  
Source: [http://www.wral.com/news/news\\_briefs/story/8198832/](http://www.wral.com/news/news_briefs/story/8198832/)
41. *August 27, Help Net Security* – (National) **Network security challenges faced by universities.** Striking a balance between an open yet secure network remains a challenge for university IT departments. While universities are often on the cutting edge of innovation, they face complications when it comes to enforcing IT policies. In some cases, this has led to staggering data breaches. For example, last year, the University of California at Berkeley faced a difficult situation when overseas hackers gained access to data on tens of thousands of people who have received healthcare from the university. The victims' medical information and Social Security numbers were exposed in the breach that lasted from October 2008 to April 2009. The University of Florida faced a similar breach last year. While security protocols, like requiring two-factor authentication for network access, could prevent breaches, enforcement and implementation challenges abound. While it is unrealistic and unwarranted for universities to be held to the same standard as the enterprise, there are best practices schools can incorporate to strengthen their security.  
Source: <http://www.net-security.org/article.php?id=1481>
42. *August 27, Richmond Times-Dispatch* – (Virginia) **State struggles with computer failures.** A massive computer failure is crippling Virginia government, knocking out Web sites, blocking the issuance of driver's licenses, preventing the processing of jobless benefits, and delaying welfare payments. The outage, flaring August 25 and expected to disrupt some services through the weekend, is attributed to 228 malfunctioning servers, which supply shared software and applications to clusters of state agency computers. Twenty-six of more than 80 state agencies were hit by the shutdown, including the office of the governor. The incident is the latest embarrassment for Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) and Northrop Grumman, the company the state hired in 2005 to provide computer and communications services under a \$2.3 billion contract — Virginia's richest-ever privatization deal. VITA and the firm have quarreled for months over shoddy, expensive service. This past spring, VITA and the company announced a new

agreement giving an additional \$236 million to Northrop Grumman in return for a pledge of better service.

Source: <http://www2.starexponent.com/news/2010/aug/27/state-struggles-computer-failures-ar-475821/>

43. *August 26, BBC* – (International) **UN reviews security after Pakistani Taliban 'threat'**. The United Nations is reviewing security measures for its aid workers in Pakistan, after a warning of new threats from the Pakistani Taliban. A United States official said militants planned to attack foreigners delivering aid to the millions of people affected by the devastating floods in the country. One Taliban spokesman told Associated Press that the presence of foreign aid workers was "unacceptable". However, there have been no attacks since the humanitarian crisis unfolded. The U.N. says more than 17 million people have been affected by the floods, and about 1.2 million homes have been destroyed, leaving 5 million people homeless. On August 25, a U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the BBC that the militant group Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan planned to "conduct attacks against foreigners participating in the ongoing flood relief operations in Pakistan". The official said the U.S. government also believed "federal and provincial ministers" might be at risk, but gave no further details of the source of the information. A World Health Organization spokesman said its work in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan was already being affected by security concerns. The U.N.'s emergency relief co-coordinator said August 26 that its security experts would be working with other international organizations "to assess what the risks are and to minimize them."

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-11095267>

44. *August 26, KNDU 16 Yakima* – (Washington) **Hazardous materials removed from burial ground in Hanford**. Workers are making their first entry into one of the U.S. Department of Energy's most hazardous waste burial grounds containing radioactive and hazardous materials at the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state. The work will help identify what is buried at the site, known as the 618-10 Burial Ground, located near the Columbia River and a few miles north of Richland. So far, workers have dug up several drums containing radioactive materials, such as depleted uranium chips in oil, a cask with unknown contents and other miscellaneous debris. The depleted uranium chips are typically covered with oil because they can spontaneously ignite if exposed to oxygen. And, that's just the beginning of some of the high-risk and hazardous materials that may be buried underground. "This is one of the most challenging cleanup projects at the Hanford Site, because the records don't tell us exactly what's buried here, but the information we do have indicates we'll encounter some of the most hazardous waste on the site," said the Department of Energy's Federal Project Director for the River Corridor Closure Project. Workers are digging a series of test pits within the 6-acre burial ground to help identify some of the contents, which is where the drums, cask and other debris were found.

Source: <http://www.kndu.com/Global/story.asp?S=13052778>

45. *August 26, Nextgov* – (National) **Defense looks for ways to detect insiders stealing classified files**. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency kicked off August

25 a project that would give the Defense Department the ability to quickly detect and stop insiders intent on stealing information from military and government computer systems. The agency said in its announcement of the initiative that it wants to "greatly increase the accuracy, rate and speed with which insider threats are detected and impede the ability of adversaries to operate undetected within government and military interest networks." DARPA's Cyber Insider Threat program, called Cinder, comes just a month after the largest insider leak of classified documents in history to the Web site Wikileaks, which furnished the documents to The New York Times, The Guardian and Der Spiegel. An Army private first class has been charged with copying 76,000 documents from classified systems and giving them to Wikileaks. While DARPA did not make any connection between the Wikileaks case and Cinder, it said it wants to develop ways to detect actions on military networks and systems that could indicate someone is trying to copy classified files. Cinder would detect a Defense employee or service member who conducts a network search or probes file index systems, and then copies information to their computer. The private identified as the source of the Wikileaks documents allegedly engaged in all these actions and then burned the files to a compact disc. DARPA said it also wants to know if an insider stores files on a CD. Source: [http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng\\_20100826\\_5705.php](http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20100826_5705.php)

For another story, see item [25](#)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

46. *August 27, TCPalm.Com* – (Florida) **New maps fine-tune areas for hurricane evacuation in St. Lucie County.** If a strong Category 4 or 5 hurricane strikes this summer, more residents in and near Port St. Lucie, Florida, will be ordered to evacuate their homes than in the past. Changes to previous evacuation plans were made because there are new and better storm surge maps for the county. Airborne infrared lasers have scanned the Treasure Coast and all of Florida to produce maps 10 times more accurate in showing land elevations than previous maps, which better reveal areas that could be prone to hurricane flooding. "Our category 1 through 3 evacuation zones have stayed the same," said the coordinator for the St. Lucie County Division of Emergency Management. "Residents who live in the newly identified areas will be evacuated in a Category 4 or 5 hurricane." "Having the new data allows these residents to have more information for their own hurricane planning, either to leave the area, go to a shelter, or stay with somebody outside the surge zones."

Source: <http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2010/aug/27/new-maps-fine-tune-areas-for-hurricane-in-st/>

47. *August 26, Sacramento Bee* – (California) **Sacto 9-1-1: Sacramento PD: Dropped bullet explodes, wounding police clerk.** A Sacramento Police Department clerk was struck in the leg by fragments from a bullet's casing this morning when she accidentally dropped a property evidence envelope. The property clerk at the police facility in the 500 block of Sequoia Pacific Boulevard about 9:30 a.m. was grabbing some property

envelopes when one of the envelopes fell, a police spokesman said. A round of ammunition fired, and the 10-year employee with the city was hit in right leg. The bullet had been loose in the envelope and not inside the chamber of a weapon when the envelope was dropped, the spokesman said.

Source: <http://blogs.sacbee.com/crime/archives/2010/08/sacramento-pd-d-5.html>

For more stories, see items [54](#) and [55](#)

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## **Information Technology Sector**

48. *August 27, Computerworld* – (International) **Rootkit with Blue Screen history now targets 64-bit Windows.** A new version of malware that crippled Windows PCs last February sidesteps safeguards designed to block rootkits from hijacking machines running 64-bit editions of Windows, researchers said August 26. "A new era has officially dawned; the era of x64 rootkits," said a Prevx researcher in a post to the company's blog. The updated rootkit, which goes by names including Alureon, TDL and Tidserv, is able to infect 64-bit Windows PCs. Both Prevx and Symantec have found evidence that hackers are actively using the rootkit. "The infection is spreading on the Web, by using both porn Web sites and exploit kits," he said, adding that U.K.-based Prevx spotted the new rootkit more than 1 week ago. Symantec's first sighting was August 25. The new rootkit sidesteps two, important anti-rootkit protections Microsoft built into 64-bit Windows, Kernel Mode Code Signing and Kernel Patch Protection, also known as PatchGuard. The pair are designed to make it more difficult for malware to tamper with the operating system's kernel. Rootkits that overwrite the hard drive's master boot record, where code is stored to bootstrap the operating system after the computer's BIOS does its start-up checks, are essentially invisible to the operating system and security software.
- Source:  
[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9182238/Rootkit\\_with\\_Blue\\_Screen\\_history\\_now\\_targets\\_64\\_bit\\_Windows](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9182238/Rootkit_with_Blue_Screen_history_now_targets_64_bit_Windows)
49. *August 27, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Russia, Turkey named 'most dangerous' web countries.** Computer users in Turkey and Russia are at the greatest risk of online attacks, according to a recent report. Security firm AVG said the two nations had the highest concentration of attack attempts per citizen. The report compared attack attempts collected by its Threat Labs to the total number of users in a country. AVG said 1 in 10 of its Turkish users had been subject to an attack attempt this year. In Russia, 1 in every 14 users had been attacked. Ranking third on the list was Armenia, with 1 of every 24 users subject to attack, followed by Azerbaijan and Bangladesh. The U.K. ranked 31 on the list, with 1 in 63 users attacked. Users in the United States had a 1 in 48 chance of attack, earning it the ninth spot on the list. Among the safest countries to surf were Japan, which logged attacks on just 1 in every 404 users. Taiwan, Argentina and France were also noted for low attack levels. AVG's chief research officer said while the report reviewed risks residents take in visiting sites in their native

countries and languages, users who are traveling in high-risk countries should exercise extra caution.

Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2268820/russia-turkey-named-dangerous>

50. *August 27, SC Magazine* – (International) **Kaspersky Lab warns of advanced instant messenger threat.** Warnings have been made about worms spreading via instant messaging (IM) clients. Kaspersky Lab said the new family of worms are multilingual and capable of infecting users via several IM clients simultaneously, including Yahoo! Messenger, Skype, Paltalk Messenger, ICQ, Windows Live Messenger, Google Talk and the XFire client for gamers. It said four variants of IM-Worm.Win32.Zeroll have been detected so far. Kaspersky Lab said once it penetrates a computer, the worm looks in the contact list of any IM client present and sends itself to all the addresses it finds. Infection occurs when a user follows what they think is a hyperlink in an IM to an interesting picture, that leads to a malicious file. IM-Worm.Win32.Zeroll also has backdoor functionality to gain control of a computer without the user's knowledge. Once it has penetrated a system, the worm contacts a remote command and control center, and after receiving its instructions, it starts downloading other malicious programs. Kaspersky Lab said it uses 13 different languages, including English, German, Spanish and Portuguese, sending users in various countries messages in a language that they will understand. At the present time, Mexico, Brazil, Peru and the United States have seen the greatest numbers of infections, but many instances have also been recorded in Africa, India and European countries, particularly Spain.  
Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/kaspersky-lab-warns-of-advanced-instant-messenger-threat/article/177649/>

51. *August 26, eWeek* – (International) **Researchers warn of .Zip file spam surge.** Security researchers are reporting an uptick in malware hidden in .zip files being sent out in spam to Web users. According to IBM's X-Force, there has been a significant increase in the number of spam messages with malicious .zip file attachments. "Normally we see that between 0.1 and 1.5 percent of all spam messages contain a .zip attachment. Since [the] beginning of August, the percentage of .zip spam has increased significantly," said a joint August 24 blog post by X-Force researchers. Sophos reported August 26 a widespread campaign of spam posing as e-mails from FedEx with subject lines such as "Fedex Tracking number" and "Fedex Invoice copy." As a lure, the e-mails mention a failed package delivery. Unlike many of the other FedEx-related malware attacks in the past, the e-mails' message about a failed delivery comes in the form of an image rather than text — possibly in an attempt to avoid anti-spam filters. Anyone who makes the mistake of opening the attachment is greeted with a Trojan. Sophos has not linked the FedEx attack to any particular botnet, but as of approximately noon EDT, the Trojan represented a third of the malware the company was seeing August 26, a Sophos researcher said. According to IBM, the increase during the past few weeks has not been tied to a single malware campaign or spam botnet, and there are a few different types of malware used.  
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Security/Researchers-Warn-of-Zip-File-Spam-Surge-583404/>



52. *August 26, DarkReading* – (International) **Mariposa botnet operators didn't bite in 'cookie-stuffing' offer.** The Slovenian man recently arrested for allegedly writing malware used to build the now-infamous Mariposa botnet also sold an additional feature for his bot software, a form of cookie fraud known as "cookie-stuffing." According to the researcher who helped take down Mariposa, the Spanish operators who purchased the bot software from the Slovenian man known as "Iserdo" and then built Mariposa, for some reason did not opt for the feature, which he offered for 200 euros, even though it would have increased their potential profits. "That was one module they didn't buy," said a technical director of PandaLabs, which teamed up with the FBI, Defence Intelligence, and Georgia Tech University researchers to derail the botnet in December of last year. "The most likely explanation is that they didn't even know what it was about. Otherwise, they could have multiplied the profit they were doing." Cookie-stuffing would have added another revenue stream for the Mariposa operators. This often-overlooked but lucrative form of crime is where a fraudster sticks his own cookies atop legitimate cookies planted for affiliate marketing purposes. Source: [http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerability\\_management/security/app-security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=227100051](http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerability_management/security/app-security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=227100051)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [sos@us-cert.gov](mailto:sos@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <https://www.it-isac.org>

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## **Communications Sector**

53. *August 27, Reuters* – (International) **Car bomb explodes outside Mexico TV studio.** A car bomb exploded in the northern Mexican city of Ciudad Victoria August 27 outside a studio of top broadcaster Televisa, but there were no injuries, Mexican media and witnesses said. Two witnesses saw the charred remains of a parked vehicle outside the TV studio in the city in Tamaulipas state, and Televisa's main morning news anchorman said nearby buildings were damaged, causing a power outage. No group was immediately blamed for the blast but drug cartels set off a car bomb in Mexico's most violent city Ciudad Juarez in July, the first of its kind, and another earlier this month in Tamaulipas in Mexico's escalating drug war. Source: <http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wxxi/news.newsmain/article/0/0/1693397/World/Car.bomb.explodes.outside.Mexico.TV.studio>
54. *August 27, Anderson Independent-Mail* – (South Carolina) **Phone service working again in Abbeville County.** Phone service that was out in areas of Abbeville County, South Carolina August 26 is now back up, according to the South Carolina Emergency Management Agency. Service for phone numbers with the prefix 459 or 447 was out of

order in some areas, causing a disruption of emergency phone service, according to the South Carolina Emergency Management Division. Service was restored that evening. Source: <http://www.independentmail.com/news/2010/aug/27/phone-service-working-again-abbeyville-county/>

55. *August 26, Steamboat Springs Pilot & Today* – (Colorado) **Jackson County communication severed after fiber optic line was cut.** The Walden, Colorado area mostly was isolated from outside communication the afternoon of August 26 because of a cut fiber optic line. Officials reported that residents in the area could call one another but could not call out of the area or reach 911 services. Phone service was interrupted from about 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. Routt County Emergency Management's director said Jackson County officials notified his office of the outage. Jackson County communications workers asked to route 911 calls to the Routt County Communications center, and Routt County officials agreed, but the patch did not work. Emergency services in the area still could use radios to communicate and process some information through Routt County dispatchers. Most cell phones in the affected area also were not usable because they are routed from cell towers to the fiber optic line. That is especially common in rural areas, Routt County's communications director said. No 911 calls made it from Jackson County to his dispatchers. Source: <http://www.steamboatpilot.com/news/2010/aug/26/jackson-county-experiencing-communication-isolation/>
56. *August 26, Associated Press* – (South Dakota) **Alltel service restored in Western SD.** A South Dakota Public Utilities commissioner said Alltel has restored cellular service in the western part of the state after a 12-hour outage. The outage began about 3 a.m. August 26, and stretched from Pierre to Rapid City. Thousands of Alltel customers lost the ability to make voice calls, though they could still text. The state public utilities commission chairman said service was restored about 3 p.m. that day. The outage appears to have been caused by a technical problem, but the chairman said his commission will look into the incident. Source: [http://www.kdlt.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=4706&Itemid=57](http://www.kdlt.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4706&Itemid=57)
57. *August 26, V3.co.uk* – (National) **Smartphones add to Wi-Fi data deluge.** The demand for mobile connectivity is pushing the amount of data being sent over Wi-Fi networks ever higher, new figures from wireless network access firm WeFi reveal. Among the main findings of the WeFi Analytics Report Q2/2010: An Analysis of Global Wi-Fi, was a massive rise in the amount of data being sent to and from smartphones over Wi-Fi. The Android platform in particular saw tremendous growth, with 30 percent of Android platforms consuming 500MB to 2GB of data and 20 percent going over 2GB. Breaking down the figures for Android phones further reveals that 35 percent of devices monitored were in the United States, while the U.K. accounted for just 6 percent. Symbian devices are also gobbling up data, according to the report, with 32 percent of devices running the platform consuming between 100MB and 500MB per month, up from 20 percent in Q1, while 10 percent use over 2GB on

Wi-Fi connections.

Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2268801/wi-continues-grow-across-globe>

For another story, see item [42](#)

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

58. *August 27, Louisville Courier-Journal* – (Kentucky) **Chemical odor forces evacuation of Chestnut building.** At least one floor of the Chestnut Center in Louisville, Kentucky was evacuated after reports of a chemical smell made an unknown number of people ill August 27, a MetroSafe Communications supervisor said. The smell — which has not been identified — was reported on the fourth floor of the building located in the 400 block of W. Chestnut Street about 8:49 a.m. The supervisor did not know how many people were evacuated. No further details were immediately available. Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20100827/NEWS01/308270053/Chemical+odor+forces+evacuation+of+Chestnut+building>
59. *August 26, KPSP 2 Thousand Palms* – (California) **Palm Springs hotel evacuated after hoax bomb threat.** A false bomb threat was called into a Palm Springs, California, hotel August 26, leading to a temporary evacuation of the facility before it was deemed a hoax. The Warm Sands Villas was evacuated at 4:30 p.m. when the threat was called in. The hotel manager said that someone called him from a scrambled phone number, saying there was a bomb in one of the rooms. Nothing was found, and police let everyone back into their rooms by 5:15 p.m. Police confirmed that the whole thing was a hoax. Source: [http://www.kpsplocal2.com/news/local/story/Palm-Springs-Hotel-Evacuated-After-Hoax-Bomb/gFCvWsDUoUq42TDC5luW\\_Q.csp](http://www.kpsplocal2.com/news/local/story/Palm-Springs-Hotel-Evacuated-After-Hoax-Bomb/gFCvWsDUoUq42TDC5luW_Q.csp)
60. *August 25, CNN* – (Florida) **Armed Christian militia pulls support for 'Burn a Quran' event.** An armed Christian organization which had pledged to protect a Florida church as it holds "International Burn a Quran Day" withdrew its support from the event August 25, according to a posting on its Web site. Right Wing Extreme also said in the posting it is asking the Dove World Outreach Center, based in Gainesville, Florida, not to hold the event, which is planned for the ninth anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks. The founder of Right Wing Extreme said since pledging its support and saying it would provide protection for the Dove Center, "we've all received several death threats" from the United States and beyond. The group has been in contact with the FBI, he said. He said he believes other groups may follow Right Wing Extreme and withdraw their support from the event as well. The pastor of the Dove World Outreach Center said the church will proceed with the event. He told CNN in an e-mail August 24: "We have met with the FBI who have warned us of the threats they have seen, not only against us but against other targets in Florida. We have

personally received threats by phone and many by mail."

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/08/25/florida.burn.quran.day/>

For more stories, see items [14](#), [24](#), and [53](#)

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## **National Monuments and Icons Sector**

61. *August 27, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Mandatory evacuation.** A mandatory evacuation order was in effect the morning of August 27, with 60 homes and structures threatened by a wildfire in the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana. The Downing Mountain Fire was first reported around 8 p.m. August 26. In a very short time it grew from 50 to 100 acres on private land, adjacent to the forest. The fire was sparked by lightning August 26. Sixty homes are in stage 2 evacuation, and an estimated 100 homes are in stage 1 warning of an evacuation. The area is 3 miles west of Hamilton. People living along Wyant Lane, Blodgett Camp Road, Canyon Creek Road, Grub Stake Road, and Owings Creek Road are all being evacuated. The Hamilton Fire Hall has been converted into an emergency operations center, and the Ravalli County Fairgrounds is open to evacuees needing assistance for pets and animals. The Red Cross has a team on site and is offering assistance.

Source: <http://www.nbcmontana.com/news/24782198/detail.html>

62. *August 26, Palm Springs Desert Sun* – (California) **Joshua Tree fire grows to 100 acres.** A wildfire burning in Joshua Tree, California has spread to more than 100 acres, a national park spokesman said shortly before 10 p.m. August 26. "It is burning actively, so people have been seeing a lot of smoke, but it's not burning really fast in any particular direction," the spokesman said. Lightning sparked three small fires in Joshua Tree National Park around 1 p.m. Several fire engines, as well as two aircraft, have been called in to fight the fire. The fire has not been contained at all, and crews do not have an estimated time to contain the fire, the spokesman said, adding that the fire is in a remote area with no buildings.

Source: <http://www.mydesert.com/article/20100826/NEWS01/100826026/Fire-in-Joshua-Tree-spreads-to-about-100-acres>

63. *August 26, The Missoulian* – (Montana) **Evacuation ordered after prescribed burn flares on Stemple Pass.** Authorities ordered more than two dozen homes evacuated August 26 when a prescribed burn by Helena National Forest officials near the Continental Divide turned into an out-of-control wildfire, but a half-dozen Canyon Creek, Montana residents defied the order and stayed to protect their houses. Temperatures in the 90s and gusting winds caused the Davis Gulch fire to grow from 200 acres to between 1,500 and 2,000 acres in just a few hours, said an incident commander with the Montana Department of Natural Resources. More than 100 firefighters were trying to form an anchor behind the blaze and protect the homes, but there was very little they could do to contain the fire. Residents in six of the 25 homes along the dirt and gravel road leading to Stemple Pass along the Continental Divide

refused to leave their homes, said the Canyon Creek fire chief. The buildings were not in immediate danger of burning and firefighters were there to watch over the homes, he said. The prescribed burn was started August 25 to reduce fuel loads. Trees in the area have been killed by mountain pine beetles and spruce budworm. The National Weather Service had issued a fire weather watch the afternoon of August 24, and upgraded it to a red flag warning the afternoon of August 25 due to a forecast calling for high temperatures, high winds and low humidity. Residents questioned the wisdom of starting a fire in such conditions. But a Helena National Forest spokeswoman said U.S. Forest Service's burn plans are very specific and "they were within those specific prescriptions for this plan yesterday" when the fire was set.

Source: [http://missoulain.com/news/state-and-regional/article\\_bef02700-b15a-11df-81a0-001cc4c03286.html](http://missoulain.com/news/state-and-regional/article_bef02700-b15a-11df-81a0-001cc4c03286.html)

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## **Dams Sector**

64. *August 27, Anderson Independent-Mail* – (South Carolina) **Corps to lower Lake Russell water levels during shoreline construction.** The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' Richard B. Russell Dam and Lake Project Office plans to lower water levels at Lake Russell in South Carolina. Levels will be lowered from the lake's full pool of 475 feet above mean sea level (ft-msl) to 472 ft-msl for shoreline construction. Water levels will remain at 472 ft-msl from September 15 to October 15, according to a Corps statement. "We need to lower the reservoir level for erosion control and bank stabilization to protect facilities at Calhoun Falls State Park and Sanders Ferry Boat Ramp," said a wildlife biologist at the Corps' Russell Project Office. As the temporary drawdown is in effect, workers will place stones along the shore in select locations to prevent the continuing erosion and bank sloughing resulting from wind and waves. Boat ramps will remain open for public use during the construction, according to the statement. Work will be conducted by Kroeger Marine Construction Inc. of Seneca. The project is fully funded by Elba Pipeline as partial payment by that organization for its easement to cross Lake Russell.

Source: <http://www.independentmail.com/news/2010/aug/27/corps-lower-lake-russell-water-levels-during-shore/>

65. *August 26, Associated Press* – (North Dakota; Minnesota) **Judge grants access to private land in Fargo-Moorhead for flood diversion study.** A judge has given Cass County's joint water board in Fargo, North Dakota a permit to access land it had been unable to study along the route of a proposed Red River diversion project in the Fargo and Moorhead, Minnesota, area. The five families who own the eight parcels targeted by the civil litigation had refused to let engineers on their property to test the soil and survey for cultural artifacts, wetlands impact and hazardous materials. More than 800 acres are subject to the judge's ruling. Plots covered by the court-issued permit are in essential areas where the proposed floodwater bypass channel would cross rivers, said one of the co-managers of the Army Corps of Engineers study of the diversion. The proposed \$1.5 billion diversion project would provide long-term flood control for the

metro area, though some landowners downstream worry it might worsen the flood threat for them. Fargo-area residents have spent the last two springs battling major floods, including a record-setting crest in 2009 that damaged hundreds of homes, and forced thousands to evacuate. One of the arguments raised by landowners at an August 9 hearing on the access dispute was that the diversion was being hastily approved. The judge said in his order that it was not "the time or place for these arguments" concerning the project itself, and that the sole issue was whether granting access to the land was proper. Landowners will be paid \$250 for each hole drilled for soil testing, as well as for any damage to crops.

Source: [http://www.bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/article\\_cab5a10a-b114-11df-9e0c-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/article_cab5a10a-b114-11df-9e0c-001cc4c03286.html)

66. *August 25, Kansas City infoZine News* – (Kansas) **Toronto and Fall River Reservoirs lowered for dam repairs.** Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) staff at Cross Timbers and Fall River state parks in Toronto, Kansas have alerted the public that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) has lowered both Fall River and Toronto reservoirs for repair of the lakes' dams. Both lakes are currently 2 feet below conservation pool, making most boating facilities inaccessible. The drawdowns will allow work to repair damage to the dams. Work on the Fall River dam is expected to be complete by November, after which the lake will be allowed to fill back to conservation pool. Work on the Toronto Reservoir dam will continue through March, according to the COE. Toronto is a relatively shallow lake, so a drawdown of this nature brings submerged structure such as trees, old farm silos, a railroad trestle, and other hazards dangerously close to the surface for boaters.

Source: <http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/43124/>

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